

REMARKS

The Examiner objected to the abstract. The abstract has been amended. The specification has also been amended to delete the language referring to specific claims.

Claims 13-30 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Djavairian (U.S. Patent No. 5,352,632). Djavairian does not disclose a vehicle door module including a spacing element that fastens an outer panel element to a support element and has an adjustable dimension to adjust a distance between the support element and the outer panel element. Djavairian discloses a door assembly 10 including a plurality of thermoplastic tabs 192 adhesively bonded to an outer panel 14 by an adhesive 198. Each tab 192 is received in an aperture 190 in an inner panel 12 and melted to lock the panels 12 and 14 together. A second adhesive 204 is disposed in a gap 202 between the panels 12 and 14. The Examiner contends that Djavairian discloses a support element, an outer panel element, and a spacing element, and therefore the claimed invention is anticipated. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Djavairian does not disclose that the adhesives 198 and 204 have an adjustable dimension to adjust a distance between the panels 12 and 14 as claimed. The adhesives 198 and 204 only function to fill the gap 202 after the panels 12 and 14 are attached by the thermoplastic tabs 192. Because the distance between the panels 12 and 14 is fixed by the thermoplastic tabs 192 that lock the panels 12 and 14 together, the adhesives 198 and 204 cannot have an adjustable dimension to adjust the distance between the panels 12 and 14. The claimed invention is not anticipated by Djavairian, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Thus, claims 13-30 and 33-35 are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.

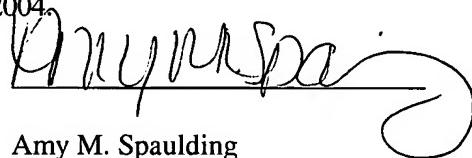


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the attached response is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mailing, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 21, 2004.



Amy M. Spaulding

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